

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 3 and 14-19 as follows. Please cancel claim 20 without prejudice to continued prosecution. The claims and their status are shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for treating ~~a component selected from the group consisting of~~ corn and/or millet(s) or ~~[[and]]~~ parts thereof, comprising:

a) ~~providing the component; and~~

b) contacting the corn and/or millet(s) or parts thereof ~~component~~ with at least one ~~or more~~ agent~~[[s]]~~ selected from the group consisting of non-protein, non-amino acid, non-vitamin, organic sulfur containing compounds; thiosulfate; and sodium dithionite, thereby producing agent-treated corn and/or millet(s) or parts thereof; and

b) wet processing or wet milling the agent-treated corn and/or millet(s) or parts thereof.

2. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the agent is utilized in a liquid form.

3. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 further comprising contacting the agent-treated corn and/or millet(s) or parts thereof ~~agent treated component~~ with a solution.

4. (Original) The process according to claim 3 wherein the solution is selected from the group consisting of an aqueous solution, an organic solution, and mixtures thereof.

5. (Original) The process according to claim 4 wherein the solution comprises water.

6. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the agent is a non-protein, non-amino acid, non-vitamin organic sulfur containing compound selected from the group consisting of thioglycolic acid, mercaptoethanol, bis(2-mercaptoethyl)sulfone, dithiothreitol, formamidinesulfinic acid, dithioerythritol, dimethyl sulfide, thiourea, methyl mercaptan, 2-mercaptoethanesulfonic acid, 3-mercapto-1-propanol, 1-propanethiol, 2-propanethiol, thiolactic acid, thioglycerol, butyl mercaptan, benzenethiol, benzyl mercaptan, diethyldithiocarbamate, N-ethylmaleimide, thiocyanate, and mixtures thereof.

7. (Original) The process according to claim 6 wherein the agent is dithiothreitol.

8. (Original) The process according to claim 6 wherein the agent is mercaptoethanol.

9. (Original) The process according to claim 6 wherein the agent is thioglycolic acid.

10. (Original) The process according to claim 6 wherein the agent is dimethyl sulfide.

11. (Original) The process according to claim 6 wherein the agent is bis(2-mercaptoethyl)sulfone.

12. (Original) The process according to claim 6 wherein the agent is thiourea.

13. (Original) The process according to claim 6 wherein the agent is thiolactic acid.

14. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 wherein the corn and/or millet(s) or parts thereof are ~~component~~ is contacted with an amount of agent of at least 0.001 mole/kg corn and/or millet(s) or parts thereof ~~component~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 wherein the corn and/or millet(s) or parts thereof are ~~component~~ is contacted with an amount of agent of at least 0.001 mole/kg ~~component~~ to about 2 mole/kg corn and/or millet(s) or parts thereof ~~component~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 wherein the corn and/or millet(s) or parts thereof are ~~component~~ is contacted with the agent for a period of at least about 1 minute.

17. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 wherein the corn and/or millet(s) or parts thereof are ~~component~~ is contacted with the agent for a period of at least about 1 minute to about 72 hours.

18. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 wherein the wet processing or the wet milling produces ~~A process for producing~~ a starch product ~~comprising using the treated component of claim 1.~~

19. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a fermentation feedstock comprising ~~using the treated component of claim 1~~

a) contacting corn and/or millet(s) or parts thereof with at least one agent selected from the group consisting of non-protein, non-amino acid, non-vitamin, organic sulfur containing compounds; thiosulfate; and sodium dithionite to produce agent-treated corn and/or millet(s) or parts thereof; and

b) wet processing or wet milling the agent-treated corn and/or millet(s) or parts thereof to produce a starch stream and/or a protein stream; and

c) using said starch stream and/or said protein stream in a fermentation feedstock.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) A fermentation feedstock produced according to claim 19.